

CIA/OCR

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and that the principles of private industry can be applied throughout. 3/ It was reportedly Balke's intention, upon his appointment, to make the social situation of his 350,000 employees his special concern. 4/ In 1955, at the Third Regular Convention of German Postal Workers Union held at Munich, he praised the responsible attitude of the union, commented upon the increasing discrepancy between the earnings of public servants and of industrial workers and expressed willingness to support reasonable union demands. 17/

Although Dr. Balke has been referred to as a "politically colorless man", he was reportedly a heavy contributor to the CSU's campaign funds, and numbers among his close friends Professor Ludwig Erhard, the Federal Economics Minister. He was supported "with particular emphasis" for his present position by Franz Josef Strauss. 1/2/4/

Personally, Balke has been described as a dark, round-faced, stocky man of medium height, a man of strong will who "knows how to get what he wants" to the extent of sometimes becoming a "beast (Balke) in the eye". He speaks fluent English, as well as French, and some Italian. Approachable and pleasant, Dr. Balke has been especially cooperative with American representatives in Bonn, and with US Army Signal personnel in Heidelberg. He is a Protestant, and is married to Anna Wagner (Balke). The couple are childless, 2/6/12/10/ and live in the American community at Plittersdorf. 18/

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